

Message Text

SECRET

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13

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 PM-03 DODE-00 SPC-01 DRC-01

/055 W

----- 031640

R 210300Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9893

S E C R E T BANGKOK 1060

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING SENT BANGKOK FROM CHIANG MAI 19 JAN 74 REPEATED FOR
YOUR INFO

QUOTE

S E C R E T CHIANG MAI 031

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: RECOMMEND EXEMPT

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TH, BM

SUBJ: THAI-BURMESE RELATIONS

REF: A) BANGKOK 785 B) BHIANG MAI 448 C) CHAING MAI 004

1. FROM HERE WE SEE FEW SIGNS OF HARDENING RTG POLICY TOWARD
BURMESE DISSIDENTS SUGGESTED REF A. BUSINESS-AS-USUAL APPEARS
TO BE CONTINUING ON ALL FRONTS. ALTHOUGH LIAISON MAN
LT. COL. CHAMNONG RADCHAROEN WAS RECALLED TO BANGKOK IN DECEMBER
(REF B), AT LEAST PART OF HIS DEALINGS WITH DISSIDENT
GROUPS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN OVER BY POL. LT. COL.
SOMBOON MALARAT (REF: C). ALSO, WE HAVE FURTHER CONFIRMATION
THAT GUNS DESTINED FOR KAREN SEIZED AT MAE SOD BY RTG IN
NOVEMBER HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED TO KARENS (REF C). JIMMY
YANG'S KOKANG RESISTANCE PEOPLE CONTINUE TO MOVE IN AND

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OUT OF CHIANG MAI FREELY, AS DO OTHER GROUPS.

2. REMARKS MADE BY BPP OFFICIALS DURING AMBASSADOR'S VISIT HERE ARE NOTEWORTHY SINCE THEY REPRESENTATIVE OF ATTITUDES OF MANY RTG OFFICIALS TOWARDS BURMESE PREDICAMENT. AT BRIEFING FOR AMBASSADOR ON SECURITY SITUATION IN NORTH THAILAND, BPP OFFICIALS DENIED COMPLETELY ASSERTION THAT BURMESE DISSIDENTS MAINTAIN OFFICES AND CAMPS INSIDE THAILAND. FOLLOWING THIS DISAVOWAL, ONE BPP COLONEL GAVE A LONG APOLOGY IN DEFENSE OF THE "FREE SHAN" (THE WORDS "REBEL" OR "DISSIDENT" WERE NEVER USED). HE RECOUNTED GUB "TREACHERY" IN IGNORING EARLIER CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES FOR MINORITY GROUPS AND PAINTED THE ROMANTIC PICTURE OF THE SHAN FREEDOM FIGHTER LONGING FOR INDEPENDENCE IN HIS AGES-OLD SELF-GOVERNING REGION.

COMMENT: A. BPP HERE WELL AWARE WE KNOW LINEUPS OF VARIOUS ARMED GROUPS INSIDE THAI BORDER. THE BALD DENIAL TO AMBASSADOR KINTNER AS WELL AS KRIANGSAK'S NOVEMBER 27 CLAIM THAT NO IBMND WERE IN THAILAND SHOULD NOT BE LOOKED UPON AS AN ATTEMPT AT DECEPTION; RATHER, WE FEEL THIS TYPE OF RESPONSE IS THEIR WAY OF TELLING US: "SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN THE NORTH ARE A THAI MATTER AND NONE OF AMERICA'S BUSINESS."

B. IN CONCLUSION, WE AS YET HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT PRACHUAB'S STATEMENT ON GUN SMUGGLING AND THE REMARKS OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ON RELATIONS WITH BURMA ARE ANY DIFFERENT FROM SIMILAR STATEMENTS MADE OVER THE YEARS BY HIGH RTG OFFICIALS. THERE IS NO INDICATION HERE THAT A REGIME WHOSE POLICE HAVE TROUBLE STANDING UP TO CURRENT UNREST IN THE CAPITAL WILL TAKE MEANINGFUL ACTION AGAINST LONG-ESTABLISHED WELL-ARMED GROUPS IN REMOTE BORDER AREAS. SIGNED MONTGOMERY UNQUOTE LKINTNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, ARMS SMUGGLING, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO001060
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740129/aaaabaso.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: A) BANGKOK 785 B) BHIANG MAI 448 C), CHAING MAI 004
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI-BURMESE RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TH, BM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005